

The Work Habit.

"Why do you work so hard when you already have more money than you can spend?" a Brooklyn millionaire was asked the other day.

"Habit, I suppose," said the millionaire, as frankly as he had been questioned. Then he leaned back in his chair and thought. Finally he repeated, with the air of a man who had looked over the ground and had come to a conclusion: "Yea, it's nothing but habit, but I can't conveniently break off money-making now. Primarily we all set out to make money for two reasons. Firstly, we want to secure existence; secondly, we desire to secure pleasures and luxuries. But while working for these purposes men become acquainted with great projects, and problems, and schemes, and industries, and, if they are earnest men who have more than a selfish interest in the business world about them, they soon become absorbed in those things. I don't think so meanly of our rich men as to imagine that they cling to business on account of the money it brings them, after they have already acquired more money than they could spend. But there is a pleasure and excitement in holding the rudder of a great enterprise and sending it boldly ahead in all kinds of weather. Does the old sailor love the sea because of the dollars he has made as wages or the dollars he expects to make? Not he. He loves it because his life's work has been identified with it. My work has become my pleasure now, and I could not bear to leave it long. This is like a big machine here, and it is a great and constant pleasure to see how smoothly it runs and to put my hand down and adjust it when necessary."

To Fool the Fish.

An ingenious inventor has just secured a patent on an India rubber substitute for a common red worm, such as is used by amateur fishermen for bait. It has many merits that commend it to persons who do not enjoy digging bait when the sun is hot and the ground is dry and hard. It is elastic, flexible and indestructible. A small box of them will last a fisherman a lifetime. Small fish get tired of nibbling at them and leave them for the large ones to take in their mouths. One great recommendation of them is that girls, whose finer sensibilities are shocked at the sight of a "horrid, live wiggling worm," can put them on their hooks without suffering real or imaginary pain or inflicting any.

It may be, however, that fish will after a time detect the fraud and refuse to touch these India rubber worms. The late Frank Buckland, fish inspector of England, had his attention called to the fact that certain kinds of fish in some streams and lakes could not be caught with artificial flies, while the same kinds of fish could be caught by means of them in other waters of Great Britain. His conclusion was that fish in lakes and streams that had for many years been visited by persons who used artificial bait had become "too knowing" to touch it, while those in waters only visited by persons who had natural bait could be deceived by imitation flies and bugs.

The government is hunting for a seemingly extinct species of a sea fish called the tile fish. It was discovered off Nantucket in 1879 as a new and valuable food fish, equaling the cod in size and occurring in great abundance in the locality where it was found. In the spring of 1882, these fish were reported by incoming vessels as having been seen in countless millions floating upon the surface of the ocean in a dead or dying condition, covering thousands of square miles of the sea. The tile fish has many peculiarities of its own. In size it varies from five to fifty pounds. Its head has a great resemblance to that of the dolphin, the body is stout at the tail like a salmon. It is profusely spotted with patches of greenish yellow. The liver is small and contains no oil, and the intestines resemble those of the eel. It is a valuable food fish either fresh, salted or smoked.

Miss DORA SHOEMAKER, a daring Philadelphia girl, has distinguished herself at the Thousand Islands by swimming from South Bay beach to Pullman island, a distance of a mile, in the St. Lawrence. She was followed by friends in a boat, but she not only crossed the channel without assistance but wanted to swim back again. This goes to show that the young women of this country are not lacking in physical development or courage.

FAME comes to men in various ways. Charles Allen Perkins, who died in Syracuse recently, had been United States minister to Sweden and Portugal, but he was best known because he was the only American citizen who ever married a person of royal blood. His wife was Isabella Francoise Guromski, princess of the house of Bourbon, and niece of Queen Isabella, of Spain.

A SINGULAR freak of nature was observed east of Ashburnham, Mass. Persons have dug down under a tree and found but one root underneath, but it has two kinds of foliage, that of a pine and that of an oak, which may be distinctly seen from a distance. In the fall of the year burrs fall on one side and acorns on the other.

In the boundaries of Custer county, Mont., have not been recently changed they still surround thirty-six thousand square miles of territory, making that one county larger than the five states of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

Points for Peach Growers.

Specialists of the department of agriculture are reported to be much concerned over the continued spread of the disease among the peach trees known as the "yellows." The limited supply of peaches this year and their generally inferior quality, except from a few districts, into which the disease has not yet spread, are attributed almost entirely to this cause. Prof. Edwin F. Smith, of the agricultural department, who has given much attention to this subject, reports that the disease, which was originally confined to a small district on the Atlantic coast, has now spread so as to include the Delaware and Chesapeake regions and the peninsula of Maryland. It is abundantly established that it is contagious. It has extended during the present year as far south as southern Virginia and probably as far west as Arkansas and northeastern Texas. Peach growers are earnestly advised to stamp out the disease by the destruction of the trees in which it appears immediately on its first manifestation, and are warned against the importation of trees from the infected districts. The primary and peculiar symptoms of peach yellows are only two. The red spotting and abnormally early maturity of the fruit, and the premature germination of ordinary winter buds, or of obscure buds buried in the bark of the trunk and limbs.

American Architecture.

A writer in Harper's Weekly mentions the interesting fact that one of the early architects of our national capitol used a bundle of stalks of corn in the rear as a column in his designs for that edifice. A correspondent calls attention to another instance of a distinctively American design in our early architecture, which is to be found in the use by Thomas Jefferson of tobacco leaves as a substitute for the leaves of the acanthus in the capitals of the columns that support the noble porch of the rotunda of the University of Virginia. It was characteristic of his vigorous, original and intensely American mind that he should substitute for the conventional acanthus leaves, which had decorated the capitals of Corinthian columns since the days of Hellenic architecture, the leaves of the plant to which, in his time, Virginia owed the greater part of her wealth. The architecture of the University of Virginia was under his personal supervision. The plans were drawn in many instances by his own hand, and showed the great attention to details that marked all his efforts. The effect of his bold experiment is not unpleasing; and to this day the columns of the porch, facing the beautiful vista of turf and forest between the white arcades on either side, bear witness to the patriotism of its builder.

THERE have been many vain attempts to manufacture in this country the silk plush of which the conventional tall silk hat is made. French manufacturers began rather less than a half century ago to substitute for felted beaver the silk plush now in use, and even yet there are only a few factories in France and England that successfully manufacture this material. So persistently did the old idea of felting hold on that it is only a few years since the best hatters quit using felt as a body upon which to superimpose the silk plush. It is asserted that a silk manufacturer in business near New York, sank sixty thousand dollars in trying to produce a silk plush fit for hat making. He even went so far as to import not only skilled workmen, but even water from France, because he came to believe that the quality of water with which the material was treated had something to do with the success of the French manufacturers.

REV. M. R. KEEP, who is reported to be one of the best informed geologists in Maine, says that a very rare fossil is found in the limestone of Aroostook county. The most wonderful deposit of fossils in the world, says Mr. Keep, is at Square Lake, near Fort Kent. Here geologists of various countries have found between forty and fifty different species of trilobites. The encrinurus, or waterlily of the Silurian age, is frequently found at Square Lake, large masses of rock being composed of the stems of these lilies. The blooms and buds are seldom found, although lately a full-blown head of the encrinurus was discovered at the lake. The fossil resembles a medium-sized rose.

MASSACHUSETTS has done more than any other state to encourage the establishment of free public libraries everywhere among the people. Of the three hundred and fifty-one towns or cities of the state two hundred and forty-eight now have free public libraries, and the state has recently provided aid for the one hundred and three small towns and villages that are without them, that they may have the same advantages in this respect as the larger places. It will probably not be long before every town in the state is provided with a free public library.

THE Benedictine order in America has a new archabbot in the person of Rev. Leander Schuerr, elected recently upon the resignation and retirement of Rev. Andrew Hintenach. The new dignitary will rule the abbey of St. Vincent, in Pennsylvania. Although little is heard of the Benedictines, they rank after the Jesuits in point of numbers, counting four hundred fathers in the American province. They are almost all Germans, and German is their official language.

Homicide Statistics.

The census bureau has issued a very voluminous and important bulletin on homicides. It appears that on June 1, 1890, there were in prison in the United States 7,351 persons detained on charges of homicide. Of these 6,958 were men and 393 women. Of the whole number 4,425 were whites and 2,926 were negroes. Now, when we consider that of the entire population of the United States 54,983,890 are whites and 7,500,000 are negroes, the proportion of blood-shedding negroes to whites makes a poor showing for the peaceable disposition of the colored people. For, while the whites are seven times as numerous as the negroes, white homicides are less than twice as numerous as the negro shedders of blood. By the same rule, if the whites were as bloodthirsty as the negroes there would be nearly 20,000 white homicides instead of 4,425.

This the New Orleans Picayune regards as a very remarkable fact, but it shows that the negroes have not yet learned the self-control that should characterize a civilized people. People who undertake to right their wrongs by violent means either have little confidence in the reliability of legal methods, or, in obedience to barbarian instincts, they ignore them altogether. The fact remains that while the negroes in population are to the whites in the proportion of 7 to 54, negro manslaughterers are to the whites in the proportion of 27 to 44. This astonishing fact appears to be unassailable, and it should silence the foolish sentimentalism that seeks to place the American negroes on a higher plane of moral excellence than is held by the whites.

One of Mulhattan's.

The crop of snake stories for 1893 has been good and full and has furnished some striking examples of ingenuity in the line of fabrication, but the aftermath bids fair to outweigh the first fruits of the season. Here is one which would seem to contradict the report that Mulhattan has retired from business:

According to an exchange there lives, or did quite recently, near Columbia, S. C., a woman afflicted in a manner that makes one's flesh creep to think of it. For more than a third of a century she has carried a live snake under the skin of one of her arms. How the reptile first found lodgment in its queer situation is as much of a puzzle to the old lady as it is to the hundreds who have visited her for the purpose of viewing the long welt where the unwelcome creature lies encysted. When the lady first noticed the bow-shaped ridge on her arm it was of about the diameter of a pin and less than two inches in length. During the many years that it has safely nestled in her flesh it has grown from a mere thread to a snake a foot long and as large as a lead pencil. The eyes of the creature are plainly visible through the skin, and the scales can be felt by rubbing the finger along the welt formed by its body. Physicians pronounce it a most remarkable freak, and have endeavored, without success, to prevail upon the old lady to have it removed.

For the first time in political history electricity will play quite a prominent part in the presidential campaign this fall. Orders aggregating several thousand dollars have already been given for electrical torches, lanterns and helmets, and electrical supply houses throughout the country are receiving inquiries as to the cost of these new aids to dazzling display and parades every day. The old foul-smelling and decidedly dangerous torch will be in a great measure supplanted by an electrical torch which will give out ten-fold as much light without a particle of either danger or smell, and enthusiasts will parade in large numbers with helmets brilliantly illuminated by aid of storage batteries and concealed wires. In this one respect at least the campaign will be an improvement on its predecessors.

CHICAGO is dissatisfied with the design for the souvenir half dollar and charges that the features of Columbus do not resemble the discoverer, but suggest a composite picture of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Elias Howe and John Wesley. The hair is long, brushed straight back from a high and broad forehead and reaching to the shoulders.

POSTMASTERS have a great deal to contend with in the line of queerly directed letters. The Boston postmaster was called on the other day to deal with a letter addressed Charles Smith, K. Pan. He sent it at once to Cape Ann.

In a recent issue of the Churchman there appears an advertisement from "A Western Priest" setting forth that he was out of employment and wanted a job. He undertook to "keep a congregation awake on the hottest day."

MAINE orchardists, whose crops will be fairly large, expect to reap a golden harvest this year on account of the practical failure of the apple crop in New York and Michigan, the two great apple producing states.

A NEW species of trout has been recently discovered in the Columbia river. They are said to have large red spots on them, which has led to their being named "Dolly Varden" trout.

ACCORDING to the United States statistics the farm land in New Jersey is rated at an average of sixty-five dollars per acre, the highest of any state in the union.

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